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Henry Hastings Hall to Sarah Bracher, 1 April 1859

Perth Ap^l 1st 1859

My dear sister

I will just write a brief note to inform you of my arrival here on the 16th March. I am sorry to say our poor old father is very very unwell and unless a change take place soon I do not think he will stand it long — but I will write of this and all other matters fully next mail. I need scarcely say every body high and low were very happy to see me I had a note from Ed Hester yesterday they are going to farm on the Blackwood having sold the store and all their Bunbury property. Frank and Ander have dissolved partnership F had taken another 'Run' at the Blackwood and is about to proceed there. Hy Strickland has the Freemason's Hotel now Carr has purchased Habgoods business. Mr R^d Broun is dead he had just brought a new wife from England. Robt Logue is dead. The cattle at the farm have been doing miserably and of course Fanny's have not been more favored than the rest I think she has only nine or ten head left most of them [?small] but whatever there are shall be sold, at the end of the winter when they will be in the best condition and the money either brought down or remitted. I think Anderton has made a very good choice — his wife is genteel and nice looking, and *I think* amiable. I need scarcely remind you to advise Shakespear of any communications from me as soon as possible after receipt. The season has been rainy and cool consequently there is plenty of fruit in the garden yet, and if I haven't been walking into the figs grapes bananas &c &c there's no snakes — if Aunt has removed you must let me know I had just asked Frank to call at the post office he brings me a letter from Aunt 7th March — A letter from dear Shake 10th March & your Ladyship's of March 12th I am much grieved you have not yet heard anything of your box, but hope you have written to Ashby and obtained Jones address I will do all I can for you & don't despair. If you have not yet heard of Shake he is at Ararat. With love to you all

Yours very affect^{ly}

H H Hall

If George sells out and turns farmer tell him to take a fool's advice — rent a small farm for a time as land will ere long be obtained more easily and advantageously than at present. I have no doubt [?Jno] Stewart could give him some valuable advice on this point and perhaps enable him to get a bit of the splendid land near Kyneton you would then be in a [--] district and still near the House of God I expect Shake and I will be farming soon some where thereabouts. The old Gentleman is delighted at my return. You may depend on hearing from me by next mail this goes to Adelaide and will be posted there by the Capt (Harris) who brought me here he is the same man King went down with. K's friends were delighted with his photograph.

Kind regard to all friends Luke Leake is as big as Mr [?Yule]